

# VIETNAM COURIER

Sept. 28  
1970  
No. 288  
7th Year

INFORMATION WEEKLY—E.O.: 46 TRAN HUNG DAO STREET, HANOI—DRVN

The DRV  
Is 25 Years Old

THE WORKING CLASS  
Vanguard of the Country

PAGE 3

★

At the Hanoi  
Engineering Plant.



## 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAM BO RESISTANCE OBSERVED IN HANOI

**T**WENTY-five years ago, on September 23, 1945, the first national resistance started in Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper). Since then our Southern compatriots have been fighting for a quarter of a century to defend the independence and unity of the Fatherland, against foreign invaders—successively the French colonialists and the US imperialists.

"Nam Bo Resistance Day," as is called the 23rd of September, was solemnly celebrated this year in the DRVN. A grand meeting was held in Hanoi under the sponsorship of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and the RSVN Permanent Representation, and attended by representatives of the Government, political parties, mass organizations and South Vietnamese regrouped in the North after the 1954 Accords, many of whom had taken part in the first battles on September 23, 1945.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Hoang Quoc Viet, VNFFCC member, and Mr. Truong Cong Dong, Acting Chief of the PRG Permanent Representation, laid emphasis upon the solidarity that had always bound the North Vietnamese to their Southern kith and kin and was now being enhanced in the struggle against US aggression. They reaffirmed the determination of our people in both parts of the country to frustrate American schemes of prolonging the war by means of "Vietnamization" and to lead the resistance to final victory in compliance with the last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh.

**T**HE clarification on the 10-point overall solution of the PRG given on September 17 by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, RSVN Foreign Minister, at the Paris Conference have received a widespread favourable reception.

President of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Pod-

ling that, the details supplied by the head of the PRG delegation reflected, the "legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people as well as the world people including the Americans," and constituted a "very positive" proposal.

On Warsaw (Poland) For-

the PRG's new peace feeler "positive, constructive and reasonable for a settlement of the Vietnamese problem." "The Bulgarian Government," he added, "whole heartedly supports it."

In Berlin (GDR), Prime Minister Willi Stoph declared that the PRG fresh sugges-

## WORLD-WIDE SUPPORT TO RSVN PRG NEW PEACE MOVE

gory declared that the RSVN PRG's new constructive proposal at the Paris Conference, supported by the DRVN, had supplied real premises for the cessation of the war and a settlement of the Vietnamese problem by political means. "World opinion is waiting for the US side to take appropriate measures to respond to this momentous initiative which, once put into effect, will bring about a great turning point in this part of the world," he concluded.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia made public a statement

sign Minister Stefan Jedrychowski, considered them an "important political and diplomatic step toward a settlement of the Vietnamese problem consistent with both sentiment and reason."

In Budapest (Hungary), Pujia, Hungary, First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that "if the United States went on rejecting the PRG offer, it would be held fully responsible for the prolongation and extension of the war in Viet Nam and Indochina."

In Sofia (Bulgaria), Foreign Minister Ivan Bashev thought

tions were a sample of the sincere and persevering efforts of the genuine representatives of the Vietnamese people to restore peace and security in Viet Nam and Indochina, with due consideration for the real situation and the Indochinese peoples' interests.

In Ulan Bator (Mongolia), Acting Foreign Minister Jargalsuthan said that the new peace initiative enjoyed the resolute support of the People's Republic of Mongolia.

(Continued page 2)

## NIXON DOCTRINE FIZZLES OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THE heroic resistance put up by the Palestinian people with the support of the Jordanian and other peoples of Arab countries has given rise to such a situation as has exposed US imperialism as a world policeman and an ugly aggressor. Wrecking the new Jordanian state, supplying the new Jordanian state with weapons and air ground and naval support by them, the Americans and Israeli thought they could use the American forces to crush down the Palestinian people's hands. The American rulers in fact declared that as long as the Jordanian troops could control the situation, the US would not land troops in Jordan. On their part, the Israeli aggressors said they would not interfere in the present situation in Jordan if the conflict continued between Jordanian troops and the Palestinian guerrillas alone.

However, the playing off of Arabs against Arabs—a trick of the "Nixon doctrine" in the Middle East—has not yielded the results expected by the US aggressors. In fact of the unity of the Palestinian patriots and the solidarity of the Arab peoples, the aggressors could hardly hide their cloven hoof. Western sources reported that Israeli aircraft had

begun to fight at the bankruptcy of the Jordanian mercenaries. According to *Reuters* of Sept. 30, the US Defence Secretary had hinted at an eventual intervention of US forces should the Israeli and Syrian troops enter the Sinai at the side of the Palestinian guerrillas.

The true mask of US imperialism as world policeman and a blood-thirsty aggressor has been torn off. But it is clear that in the Middle East as well as in Indochina, the Nixon doctrine has shown all its weaknesses and the inevitability of the failure.

It has been spawned following the repeated setbacks suffered by the US in Indochina and other regions of the globe. If now the US imperialists were forced to intervene in Jordan after the bankruptcy of their policy of pitting Arabs against Arabs, it would really be a vicious circle which would lead them to more bitter setbacks. The militant solidarity of the Arab peoples co-ordinating their actions with the Indochinese people and all other revolutionary people in the world is likely to give the aggressors a well-deserved lesson.

NHAN DAN (People)  
Sept. 29, 1970

On the 25th Anniversary  
of the Nam Bo Resistance

## Six Units and Thirteen Fighters Cited PLAF Heroes

GAI PHONG Agency has just made public a decision of the PRG dated September 3 after which the distinction of Heroes of the PLAF was conferred on 6 units and 13 fighters. This resolution was endorsed on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the national resistance of the Vietnamese people against the French reconquest in Nam Bo on September 23, 1945.

Among the six well-honoured units were a transport battalion, two infantry companies, a first-aid surgical team and a unit of village guerrillas (of the Saigon front).

Among the combatants on the list of awards were a deputy commander of regiment, a political commissar of battalion, a C.O. of company and two chiefs of village militia and a guerrilla. Two sections and company, two chiefs of village militia and two others were cited posthumously.

This was the third batch of PLAF heroes since early this year.

## World-wide Support...

(Continued from page 1)

Mme Handanankie, Prime Minister of Caylen, during her stay in Paris, has received Mme Nguyen Thi Binh who posted her on the PRG new peace proposal. Mrs. Handanankie re-affirmed the Caylen Government's sympathy with, and support to, the Vietnamese people's sound position and just struggle.

Receiving Mme Nguyen Thi Binh in Paris, Hostetler, Foreign Minister of Alsace, declared that the PRG's new peace offer spelled out the South Vietnamese people's determination to fight for their fun-

damental national rights and at the same time the PRG's serious attitude and good will toward the Paris Conference.

In the United States, the political circles' particular attention focused on Mme Nguyen Thi Binh's statement at the September 17 session of the Paris Conference. Senator J.S. Cooper told a *UPI* correspondent that the US government could hardly reject the proposal. Senator A. Gore described it as "very interesting." Senator Muskie said that the Nixon government had to seriously look into it.

## South Viet Nam

A series of decisions was taken by the Council of Ministers in September to stimulate agricultural and handicraft production:

- On the Winter 1970—Spring 1971 agricultural production campaign.
- On the agricultural hydraulic works in the service of the above-mentioned campaign.
- On the application of the Constitution of agricultural co-ops guaranteeing for the peasants the right to be collective masters of co-ops.
- On the development of the breeding of buffaloes and cocon.
- On the development of handicraft production and cottage industry.

## In Brief

• On the 50th founding anniversary of the Uruguayan Communist Party, the Viet Nam Workers' Central Committee sent a message of congratulations to the latter.

• DRVN President Ton Duc Thang has sent to the President of the Republic of Mali Moussa Traore a congratulatory message on the 10th founding anniversary of the Republic of Mali.

• A delegation of the Japanese Socialist Party led by its President Tomomi Kariya arrived in Hanoi on September 17 on a friendship visit to the DRVN at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

• A delegation of the Viet Nam—Japan Friendship Association led by Nguyen Dinh Thi, Secretary General of the Vietnamese Writers' Association, member of the Executive Committee of the Viet Nam—Japan Friendship Association, arrived in Tokyo on a friendship visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japan—Viet Nam Friendship Association.

• A press conference was given in Hanoi by Prof. Alexandre Minkovski, of the Faculty of Medicine in Paris, who demonstrated that the Americans used South Viet Nam as a testing ground for a new form of war which has suppressed for a long time all possibility of life. He mentioned such "herbicides" as 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T used in South Viet Nam in doses 13 times higher than usual.

85th Plenary Session of Paris

Conference on Viet Nam (Sept. 24, 1970)

## "THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION MUST SERIOUSLY RESPOND TO THE PRG NEW PEACE INITIATIVE," Says Mr Xuan Thuy

MR Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the PRG delegation, said that a time limit (June 30, 1971) had thus been suggested to US and satellite troops to pull out of South Viet Nam and that if the US government accepted it the people's armed forces would not attack them in their retreat, and the parties concerned would right away sit down to discuss the conditions guaranteeing safety for all the withdrawing US and satellite troops; besides, they would deal with the problem of militarymen captured. "This is an opportunity for the Nixon Administration to prove its real concern about the life and security of US troops in South Viet Nam" as it has

been claiming. And as it has ceaselessly protested its "respect for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people" it has no reason to cling to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem fascist regime disliked by everyone in South Viet Nam and hinder the establishment of a provisional coalition government," she added.

Mr Xuan Thuy, chief of the DRVN delegation, pointed out that the new peace initiative of the PRG clearly spelled out its desire to break the Paris Conference's impasse. The Nixon Administration must seriously respond to it, he stated.

VIET NAM COURIER

SEPT. 2, 1945 SEPT. 2, 1970

## The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

THE Vietnamese working class was born and has grown up as a colonial and semi-feudal country.

Oppressed and exploited by foreign colonialists and local feudals and bourgeois, it soon became aware of its position as a class.

Young, small but fired by a stubborn revolutionary spirit, it was turned in 1930 by its Party into a conscious and seasoned political force.

It realized that the interests of the class were linked to those of the nation and that its emancipation would be inseparable from the national liberation.

Therefore, it resolutely led the people to overthrow colonialism and feudalism and wrest back national independence. It is the workers who have been the staunchest defenders of the people's power and the most important architects of a new life.

The working class also knows how to rally the rural masses. On the basis of that worker-peasant alliance, it has mustered all the patriotic and progressive forces of the nation up under its leadership a united national front.

Thanks to the leadership of its Party which has, through all the revolutionary stages, mapped out a judicious line, the Vietnamese working class has been able to fully assume its tasks and responsibilities.

## FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER AND NATIONAL RESISTANCE

IMMEDIATELY after the August Revolution, the workers' associations for national salvation in the Northern and Central parts of the country urged the workers to bend all their energies on economic rehabilitation. Millions of hours of unpaid overtime work were voluntarily supplied by them.

Self-defence units were organized by workers for an unyielding multifaceted struggle against the counter-revolutionaries coming back in the van of "allied" troops.

In the meantime, a widespread anti-fascist campaign was launched in workshops and workers' quarters.

A great effort was devoted to organization. The workers' associations for national salvation were merged on a national scale and became trade-unions. On July 20,

1946, the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (*Tong Lien Doan*) was established. It was a great event. Its aim was to unite the broad masses of manual and brain workers, regardless of nationality, creed and sex, in order to defend the interests of the workers and raise their living standard, to achieve unity with all sections of the people to safeguard national independence; to fight together with the workers and peoples in oppressed countries and democratic forces in the world against oppression and exploitation, against all attempts to sow dissensions among the workers and all bellicose manoeuvres of the reactionary elements in the world, so as to preserve the workers' interests and world peace.

In the South, as early as September 1945, a general strike was staged by the Saigon-Cholon workers, followed by the entire people against the French colonialists' come-back in the wake of the British troops. The TU Federation in Nam Bo organized armed forces, setting apart two battalions and one regiment. Armed with rudimentary weapons and sharp-pointed bamboo sticks, the workers fought in the streets; they destroyed about one hundred industrial enterprises and rubber plantations.

On December 19, 1946, the war of resistance spread all over the country. In the North the workers' self-defence units confronted French armoured cars to provide cover for the evacuation of public services and the inhabitants. They destroyed roads and bridges to check enemy's advance.

They dismantled machines and moved them to the resistance bases. Thousands of tons of steel were thus carried sometimes pick-a-back to the jungle.

These workers' units were gradually transformed into regular troops. In the first years of the resistance, the workers made up one-third of the Viet Nam People's Army build-up.

In February 1945, the TU cadres in North Viet Nam met in the Viet Bac resistance areas and drew up the line of organization and direction of TU activities in the free as well as enemy-controlled areas in order to unite and mobilize the workers for a grim resistance and national construction.

On June 19, 1948, President

# THE WORKING CLASS Vanguard of the Country

Ho Chi Minh launched an appeal for a patriotic emulation drive. Thus a powerful movement spread among the workers and was greatly instrumental in the development of economic bases of the resistance forces.

Arms workshops were set up in caves or in the thick jungle. Mobile teams roved the country and made hand grenades and repaired weapons for the guerrillas. Besides, sewing and pharmaceutical workshops for the commissariat. At the end of 1949, over 100 workshops turned out modern weapons, baroques, recoilless guns, 175 mm mortars, etc.

Enterprises manufacturing consumer goods mushroomed. Apart from State firms (for paper, textiles) there were private and co-operative workshops producing textiles, thread, leather, oil, cigarettes, mats, farm tools etc.

The establishment of that war economy required from the working class strenuous efforts and great sacrifices. Measures were taken by the government regarding wages, family allowances, sickness and maternity benefits, supply of winter clothes, blankets and mosquito-nets. TU organizations guided their members in farming to improve their food supplies, in prophylactic hygiene and in the organization of community life.

The first Viet Nam TU Congress held on January 1, 1950 in Viet Bac marked a turning point as it set for the workers the tasks of "preparing with the entire people the passage to the stage of general offensive in order to wipe out the French colonialists and quailings, to thwart the US imperialists' manoeuvres of intervention in Viet Nam, to wrest back genuine independence and unity of the Fatherland and to contribute to the struggle of the workers and peoples of other countries in the defence of world peace.

In agriculture, the workers turned out more fertilizers and farm implements. They helped the peasants raise their knowledge where their workshops were. Early in 1953, thousands of these workers and TU cadres went to villages to help the peasants implement agrarian reform. As a result, the worker-peasant alliance was strengthened.

The first national congress of industrial elite workers held in Viet Bac in April 1952 awarded the title of labour heroes to two workers and that of national model workers to 134 others.

During the eight years of resistance, thanks to the patriotic emulation drive the workers put in tens of millions of extra hours. Tens of thousands of innovations and initiatives made it possible to improve tools, save raw materials and boost labour productivity.

The first TU Congress was followed in February 1950 by a conference of TU cadres coming from enemy-controlled areas. The meeting summed up the activities of the workers' movement, gave directives in accordance with the line laid down by the first congress.

In fact, the TU stalwarts "clung" to their bases as soon as the urban centres were occupied by the French expeditionary corps. They

carried out an active propaganda and persuasion work among the toiling masses. Despite severe repression, the secret TU organizations managed to subsist in the key points of the national economy. The workers engaged in sabotage, inflicting heavy damage on enemy fuel depots, and together with the guerrillas and regular troops, sprang surprise attacks on the enemy; they did a successful agitation work among adverse troops.

Between the end of 1950 and the end of 1953, 478 major actions were carried out by workers: strikes, canny strikes, wage-lift claims, protests against arbitrary sacking and against forced recruitment of manpower and propaganda.

The workers' movement kept developing and became the spear-head of the struggle of the inhabitants living in enemy-held areas.

It continued to be active even after the cease-fire in the towns and the French troops' regrouping zones, with a new orientation, however. The enemy tried to destroy or move South the main industrial installations. By means of a deceptive propaganda and coercion, they provoked an exodus of skilled workers, civil servants and population, chiefly Catholic. The action of the workers was to salvage the workshops and foil the enemy's scheme. It was to help rapidly restore production and public order in the liberated towns.

(To be continued)

At an engineering workshop dispersed during US air bombing.

# "US CRIMES Must Be Considered in Their Real Context"

In December 1969 at the national sitting for Viet Nam held at the call of more than 35 French organizations, it was decided to prepare and publish a Black Book on US crimes in Viet Nam. Four months later, thanks to the diligent work of an editing board composed of eminent writers and publicists, the book was published by Editions L'ayard, Paris.

Compiled as a document, as the editors have pointed out, this book is an endeavour to supply the reader with the very facts. Its scientific standard has been raised in the way that "it relies on authoritative, clearly quoted sources" and that "facts relating to natural sciences have been subjected to the scrutiny of experts in these fields." The facts cited cover the period from 1968 to 1970 and so constitute a

## LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS HAVING HELPED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BLACK BOOK

Association of War Widows, Progenitors and Orphans  
France - Viet Nam Friendship Association  
French Association of Democratic Lawyers  
Association for General Disarmament and Social Progress  
Republican Association of War Veterans  
Studies, Research and Socialist Education Centre  
International Information Centre  
Social Christianity  
University Inter-Union Joint Action for Viet Nam:  
- National Union of Higher Education  
- National Union of Scientific Researchers  
- National Library Union  
- National Union of Scientific Research Workers  
- Union of the National Institute of Agronomic Research  
- National Union of French Students  
Committee of French Expatristas for Peace  
Vietnamese Resistance Support Committee  
National Committee of Action for the Support and Victory of the Vietnamese People  
Regional French Committee of the Christian Conference for Peace  
General Confederation of Labour (C.G.T.)  
Trade Union Federation of Families  
Convention of Republican Institutions  
"World Brothers" Team  
Federation of War Veterans and War Victim Groups of the R.A.P.P.  
Federation of "Christian Testimony" Groups  
Federation of French University Residences  
Young Republic  
International League of Women for Peace and Freedom  
Movement against Racism, Anti-Semitism and for Peace  
Peace Movement  
French Communist Youth Movement  
Mondialist Movement  
Movement for Disarmament, Peace and Freedom  
French Communist Party  
Unified Socialist Party  
National Union of Secondary Education  
Tourism and Work  
Plastic Arts Union  
French Women's Union  
Union of Jews for Resistance and Mutual Assistance  
Union of Valiant Men and Women  
National Union of College Committees of Action  
Progressive Union

### Editing Board

Mme Françoise Direr  
Mme Marcelle Venturini  
Mr Jean Benuch  
Dr Bosquet  
Mr Pierre Brocheux  
Mr Charles Fourniau  
Mr Pastor Vogt

### Reading Board

Mme Marguerite Thibert  
Mr Gustave Durup  
Mr Jean Schaefer  
Mr Souchet



At Thom Duc village, Hanoi Duc district, Binh Thuan province (South Viet Nam) after a toxic chemical spraying.

supplement to the works of the "Russell Tribunal" which has brought in its verdict on the crimes committed in the earlier period.

The book consists of three main parts, dealing with the "massacres of civilians," "chemical warfare" and "bombings-experiment-social effects."

### SON MY IS NOT AN "ISOLATED INCIDENT"

THE Son My massacre where more than 500 people, mostly old people, women and children—including babies—were gassed down in cold blood by the GIs of the 11th Brigade (American Division) on March 18, 1968, has produced a shock in world opinion. The hallucinating pictures of heaps of corpses released by the photographer Ronald L. Hoeberle in the *Plain Dealer* of Cleveland (Ohio), are still haunting the memory of those who have had a glance of them. The evidence, the magnitude and the horror of the crime need no further debate; the testimonies submitted by the eyewitnesses of the slaughter—whether they come from areas under NFL control or from zones occupied by the US and its puppets or the US Expeditionary Corps—are concordant.

The authors of the book have elected to clarify another question: "Is Son My an isolated incident?" or due to the hazard of war? The answer is conclusive as attested by the various pieces of evidence used.

Thus, at the press conference called by the International Information Central to Denounce War Crimes and the Franco-Viet Nam Medical Association at Palais d'Orsay, Paris, Dec. 10, 1969, the American GI James Weeks, speaking of his participation in Operation Junction City in 1967 in South Viet Nam had this to say:

"That was in what was known as 'free-fire zone' area. It was explained to us at that point that anything alive was supposed to be dead. We were told that if we saw a 'goat' or hog or small, we shoot first. It was just an open turkey shoot."

"At that time, men, women and children were all part of the 'body count'. This went on for a few weeks. At this point, I started to realize that a large percentage of guys, from top to bottom, had a great deal of paranoia, including myself. It seemed that everyone was trying to kill you. There were no friendly forces. The people themselves were after us, the farmer in the field, the girl at a stream. They were all classified as 'goats'. Whether it was a girl working in the PX, they were all 'goats'. All something less than human beings. This is a thing I want to emphasize. The effect this has on a soldier is great because it makes it a lot easier to kill. If you can kill a water buffalo or a monkey, you can kill a 'goat'."

(page 13)

And James Weeks concluded: "Nixon says there was a massacre, an isolated incident at Son My of a few soldiers who went berserk. I hope that the message the people get from my experience is that Son My is not an isolated atrocity. The war in Viet Nam is an atrocity. What seems to be an atrocity to some people is everyday life, and standard operating procedure out there."

For his part, Curtis Kirker, an ex-specialist of the 1st Brigade,

(Continued page 7)



A baby born of a mother exposed to US toxic chemicals.

Editor's Note—Nixon going back on his promises has not solved the Viet Nam problem. It is willing and able to settle the internal problems of the USA?

"THE nation (the USA—VNT) is disintegrating," remarked GOP spokesman John Gardner in a speech in Illinois.

"Our country (still the USA—VNT) today is in the midst of a crisis," noted Senator Thomas H. Kuchel. As for professors Robin Fox and Lionel Tiger of Rutgers University, they affirmed that their country was going through a particular crisis.

President Nixon himself has acknowledged the existence of a social crisis in his country. Innumerable testimonies can still be given on the existence of the American crisis in its different aspects.

However, while admitting its existence, the representatives of the elite in power have been trying to minimize its size and conceal many of its facets.

This article deals with its essential complexion as well as its deep causes.

### POVERTY

This problem, in the opinion of Whitney Young, a moderate Black leader, always remains "the most dangerous and most pressing of our (USA—VNT) problems."

Many American authors also endorse this view. Under the Johnson Administration, the number of the poor reached the 30 million-mark in the US, according to official statistics. In reality, the figure was much bigger. According to the estimates of economist Victor Perlo, 31,340,000 US citizens or 26.1% of the population lived in poverty in 1966. In the last years of the Johnson presidency, it was claimed that the number of the poor had gone down sensibly. This reduction was possible, it has now become transparent, thanks to deceptive statistics. Senator Hruska, after pointing out that the Johnson Administration had sought to hoodwink public opinion, noted that in the matter of trickery, no bureaucrat could challenge the administrators of the anti-poverty program. *Congressional Record*, 10. 10. 1968, p. 5 12427.

In a book published in 1968, Michael Harrington, an expert in the poverty problem, doubted the official assertion that the number of the poor had decreased. As previously, he stressed, 50 million Americans live in the austere ring of poverty, or break off from it to a very small extent.

After his entry into the White House, R. Nixon also recognized the existence of an important shadow in the midst of the so-called affluent society. On May 6, 1969, in a message to Congress, he affirmed that the time had come to put an end to hunger in America for all time.

"For Mr Nixon, the goals [are] more modest: it is not on poverty that the present President wants to declare war, but on its utmost manifestation—famine, and its most common form in highly industrialized countries—malnutrition." (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, Paris, Jan. 1970, p. 11). It means that compared with L.B. Johnson, there is a clear restriction to the approach to the problem. In fact, according to official data, "if more than 30 million Americans still live at poverty level—for the most part the Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Indians and the 'poor whites' of the Southern States and the Appalachians—the official statistics estimate the number of underfed or poorly nourished Americans at 15 million only" (*ibid.*).

In August 1969, R. Nixon gave details in another message to Congress devoted to a social security reform bill.

He proposed that the federal government should provide to needy families a minimum national income of 1,600 dollars per year for a family of four. That is, however, a very low figure: according to the Administration itself, a family of that size maintains a poor standard of living even at 3,500 dollars a year" (*ibid.*). According to the estimates of AFL-CIO economists, the minimum annual income for a family of four ought to reach 5,500 dollars by the end of 1969. At present, as a result of the rising cost of living, taxes, medicare and tuition fees, this minimum income evidently tends to be still higher.

In the same August 9 message, R. Nixon set forth a principle which has drawn many more criticisms than this 1,600-dollar margin" (*ibid.*), namely that any person who received help must accept the job given to him or he would lose the security benefits. Yet, the commission set up by L.B. Johnson which, however, did not publish its report until August 1969, had already rejected this principle, for the following reasons:

"It is often said that those who wish to live comfortably can do it by working and that the poor

his response was something less than met the eye to the conference's recommendations, according to which, "the country (the USA—VNT) is today confronted with the urgent problem of hunger and malnutrition." "Consequently, the President must declare a state of emergency in connection with this problem and provide immediate food programs to meet it this winter of 1969" (our italics—VNT).

In fact, Nixon announced nothing new, but only made known that he kept to his decision of August 1969, which call for food programs to the more than 300 counties still without them and a rise from 58 to 105 dollars in the value of food stamps for a family of four.

Finally, the various programs contemplated by the Nixon Administration concerning the poverty problem have got a rather poor reception from American experts.

The executive director of the National Council for the Fight against Poverty and Under-nourishment, John Kramer, has affirmed, for instance, that the carrying out of these programs would lead to an aggravation of the plight of indigents in 44 States. Many experts share this view and recall that, at present, in

without any tragedy, tens of millions of citizens would "live in the other (i.e. the poor—VNT) America when the country celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1976."

At present, the problem of poverty keeps aggravating because of the soaring prices, taxes, and medical care and education fees. The standard of living of the American workers has been declining at a quick pace. During the first 16 months of the Nixon Administration, between Dec. 1968 and April 1970 for instance, the average real wage of the industrial workers decreased by 4.7% per week, or practically 6.6% if we take account of growing unemployment, and these are official data which are reputedly a far cry from the truth.

Instead of earmarking more substantial credits for the social sectors, US ruling circles have been slashing them to the advantage of the military-industrial complex. Of late, cutbacks have been made on appropriations for mental care for the indigents, for community services in the "poor" quarters, for education, job training, municipalities and public health.

On the whole, as the national organization for social security rights has put it, "reforms" proposed by the Nixon Administration "do not correspond to the needs... of the sectors of the population living in poverty."

### BLACK PROBLEM

Under pressure of circumstances, the Johnson Administration managed to get congressional approval of various civil-rights bills. Does it mean that the condition of Black Americans has changed? Senator Edward Kennedy said in this connection in his Aug. 6, 1966 speech: "After all the programs adopted by Congress, how much has in fact the life of the average Black changed? Very little. In what respect can desegregation of motels help you if you cannot afford them? What is the use of the voting right if because of it you risk losing your job, even your life? There are twice as many unemployed among the Black as among the White and this difference still grew in the past year... One continues to confine the Black in ghettos of major cities and this segregation is being strengthened... This situation is vicious morally, socially and economically (*Congressional Record*, 10. VIII. 1966, p. 18 124).

It should be recalled that the failure of the "war on poverty" and growing unemployment have a disastrous impact on the living conditions of the Black people. Far from being

(Continued page 7)



Mass demonstration against the Viet Nam war, one of the underlying causes of US domestic difficulties.

## LAOS

### OVER 4,400 ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACTION

In the first three months ending last August of the current rainy season, the Lao patriotic forces put out of action more than 4,400 enemy troops, including nearly 800 who surrendered. They seized or destroyed 2,149 fire arms and a large quantity of war supplies, shot down or wrecked on the ground 49 US aircraft, KPL reported.

Among the losses were 6 artillery pieces, over 100 mortars and recoilless guns, 47 radio transmitters, and a dozen arms and ammunition depots blasted.

This followed the big feats recorded by the Lao patriotic forces in the 1969-1970 dry season in which more than 13,000 enemy troops were wiped out.

Following their bitter reverses of strategic significance in the Plain of Jars, Xiang Khong, Attapeu and other areas, the US imperialists and their lackeys have been sliding more and more deeply into a position of passive defence. Yet, they have tried their hardest to consolidate their forces, step up forcible conscription and haul more Thai-Lao combat troops into encroachments against the Lao liberated areas including Pak Khe, Pak Ou and Pha Thong, in Upper Laos.

In Lower Laos, the US and its lackeys have launched a series of raids in many places of Savannakhet, Champasak, Saravane and Siphon provinces.

Since mid-August 1970, they have carried out an encroaching operation codenamed "Thanong Kiet" involving over 10 battalions of Lao puppet troops and Thai combat forces in Muong Sui area and southwest of the Plain of Jars. Coupled with these illegal actions, the US imperialists and their lackeys have increased air bombings, causing death and destruction among Lao civilians. But the aggressors have been duly punished.



Lao fighters going to the front.

### LIBERATED ZONE HAS A NEARLY 70,000 - PUPIL BODY

THE educational service in the liberated zone of Laos is making active preparations for enrolling nearly 70,000 pupils in the 1970-1971 school-year, KPL reported.

Compared with 1966-1967, the number of pupils this year increased by nearly 90 per cent. The secondary school population recorded a 65 per cent increase.

In Sam Neua, Attapeu, Udomaxay, Xiang Khong and Phongsavan provinces, from 10 to 15 out of every 100 inhabitants are attending classes as against less than one out of 100.

The number of school girls and of school children from ethnic minorities has risen markedly. In many provinces, the former accounted for 40-50 per cent of the total,

and the latter for 30-40 per cent.

In spite of the US imperialists and their lackeys' intensified bombings and ground raids in the liberated areas, which have been causing a host of difficulties to the population, the latter, resolved to fight the enemy and carry out production and boost up education and other aspects of life, have repaired or expanded schools and built new ones. Many teachers and pupils have become home-guards, guerrilla fighters or war supply carriers. Many others have participated in agricultural production.

In the recent summer vacation, almost all teachers attended refresher courses in execution of the watchword set for this new school-year: "Learn well and teach well."

## SEVEN MORE VICE-MINISTERS FOR CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE GOVERNMENT

SEVEN more seasoned resistance fighters and first-rate intellectuals have been appointed vice-ministers of the Cambodian resistance government, said a communique released on September 17 by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

The communique said: "The Cambodian people, closely united under the banner of the FUNK led by its President, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and the National Liberation Armed Forces have recorded brilliant successes in their sacred struggle against the US imperialists, the Saigon and Bangkok puppets as well as their under-valets, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh clique. More than two-thirds of the country with more than three million people have been

completely liberated. The rest is guerrilla zones where the Liberation Armed Forces, holding the initiative of action, have been unceasingly launching successful attacks against the puppet troops. Phnom Penh city is practically isolated and encircled by the popular forces. The most urgent tasks of defence and consolidation of the liberated zone and complete liberation of the country should be well carried out till final victory.

"For these reasons, the Central Committee of FUNK, in its session on August 20 and 27, decided to broaden, according to the requirements, the responsibilities of the leaders who are fighting on the internal front at home. Mr. Khieu Samphon has consequently been appointed Vice-Premier concurrently with his function as Minister of National Defence.

"The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the FUNK, after analyzing the internal situation of the country and the new tasks, after consultation with the leaders now fighting on the internal front at home and after studying the proposal of Mr. Khieu Samphon, member of the Political Bureau, Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence, have appointed 7 personalities fighting on the national territory as Vice-Ministers. This nomination has received the supreme approval of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the FUNK.

### TAKED AND KANDAL: People's Power Set Up in 80 Villages

UP to August 20, 1970, 80 out of 103 villages of Kandal and Takeo provinces were liberated and provided with revolutionary power.

In these villages, measures have been taken to secure for the people democratic liberties and a normal life: suppression of taxes imposed by the Lon Nol puppet administration and liquidation of social evils.

The new power has confis-

cated and distributed the reactionaries' property to the poor and have launched a production campaign in order to build up a stock of supplies necessary to the struggle against US aggression and for national salvation.

In June and July last, the revolutionary power in these villages opened courses to train medical workers and sent to hamlets many mobile teams to give medical care to the people.

The new vice-ministers have a long resistance record and are first-rate intellectuals."

The following list:

- Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs: Pao Deoua Komar;
- Vice-Minister of Popular Education and Youth: Mrs. Leng Thirith;
- Vice-Minister of Public Health and Social and Religious Affairs: Choe Chet;
- Vice-Minister of Economy and Finance: Key Toun;
- Vice-Minister of National Defence: Kong Sodik;
- Vice-Minister of Interior and Security: Soe Thook;
- Vice-Minister of Information and Propaganda: Tiv Ol.

"Besides the appointment of the above vice-ministers," the communique went on, "in the near future, several ministries will be transferred inside the country. The Political Bureau, in execution of the directives of the Central Committee of the FUNK, will step by step move there the entire government."

The communique reiterated full confidence in the ministers and vice-ministers who are carrying out their sacred task under the direct leadership of Vice-Premier Khieu Samphon.

The communique called on the entire Cambodian people and their National Liberation Armed Forces to support the new vice-ministers in the exercise of their functions.

## THE DISUNITED STATES

(Continued from page 5)

improved as promised, the socio-economic status of the Black on the whole has been worsening.

Early in 1970, under Nixon, some 15 years after the well-known decision of the US Supreme Court on school desegregation, many press agencies recorded an aggravation of racial discrimination in education.

In fact, according to data published early this year by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, out of 10 Black children 7 frequent Black schools. In important centres in the North, segregation is also very apparent: in Philadelphia, for instance, 60% of the Black school pupils are separated from their White friends; in Detroit and in Chicago, the rates are respectively 59 and 55%. Columnist David Lawrence has rightly assumed that today school segregation in the North is perhaps even more widespread than in the South.

Colour bar, far from being limited to education, penetrates every fibre of American society. Senator A. R. Bickoff declared on Feb. 9, 1970: "Without question, Northern communities have been systematically and consistently as Southern communities in denying the Black man and his children the opportunities that exist for White people. The plain fact is that racism is rampant throughout the country (the USA-VNT)."

The 33 million Black people, regarded as second-rate citizens, have had to endure all the deprivations of American society: unemployment, poverty, inhuman conditions of living in ghettos, ruthless exploitation and humiliations.

(Continued from page 4)

Fourth Infantry Division, who served" in South Viet Nam from April 1, 1967 to April 4, 1968, declared at the same press conference:

"The My Lai (Son My) massacre is an extension of such attitudes and policies as I saw developing in Quang Ngai province. Although the majority of the killings in Viet Nam don't occur in the same attention-getting fashion as at My Lai, it is just as cold-blooded and cruel, just as disgusting, just as shocking. Shortly after I arrived in Viet Nam, a sergeant offered to show me a collection of human ears. The man even offered me a set. Shortly before I left, one of the machine-guns in a platoon of Alpha Company removed the finger of an unarmed, now dead Vietnamese in order to get the ring. When I asked him why he was so pleased, he simply said, 'the 50 dollars he could get from the ring would buy plenty of beer.'"

(page 24)

It is very likely that the pleasure of killing — just as a practice of

In January this year, the New York Times already remarked that as the economic situation deteriorated, "another new blow against the Black man" was expected. Growing unemployment hits most particularly the Black population.

The failure of the aid program for the destitute, the cutbacks on federal funds for local projects, education, public health, etc., have been particularly prejudicial to the needy categories of the Black population.

A Black worker earns an average 53% of the wage of a White worker, and only 30 or 40% in the Southern States. 39% of the Black live in poverty; housing for the Black is 56% substandard; on an average a Black lives 5 years less than a White; the mortality rate among coloured children is 40% higher than among the White, etc.

The majority of experts now recognize that the "strategy of Black capitalism," destined, it seems, to improve the living conditions in the ghettos is quite sterile. Andrew Brimmer, the only Black on the Board of the Federal Reserve System, recently said (expressing a representative view) that the Black population would not gain much from the "strategy of Black capitalism." He added that he did not expect "in the foreseeable future" the full liquidation of the big ghettos in US cities.

This year, the "hot summer" began with street fighting between police and Black people in Asbury Park (New Jersey), and the movement extended rapidly to other States: Kansas, Indiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois, etc.

## US CRIMES MUST BE...

sport, hunting for instance, has been tolerated if not encouraged, in the US Expeditionary Corps. Following is the testimony reported by PHAMANTHO on Dec. 1, 1969, from Major Thomas Loflin, a veteran of the 88th Transportation Battalion in Pleiku (South Viet Nam), who declared on Nov. 29, 1969 in Hendersonville where he was at that time:

"Many pilots told him in confidence that they had made it their practice to fire on unarmed civilians; others related how they had destroyed a farm with rockets back from a combat mission; still others boastfully claimed having flown at free-top level over villages and then gunned down the inhabitants fleeing in all directions."

"The pilots spoke this out freely before their officers. If he himself had said nothing about all that to the military authorities while he was in Viet Nam, it was because everybody knew all about such practices

This new outburst of anger in the Black ghettos had been foreseen by special services of the Establishment: Department of Justice, FBI and the Pentagon. Newspapers have spoken of the "hot summer" which has commenced and the "stormy clouds" which have accumulated in the Black ghettos. *Newswatch* even conducted a recent investigation in 50 US cities. Its reporters met with Black leaders, police representatives and men-in-the-street, etc. They have drawn the following conclusions:

— Nixon's economic policy does damage especially to the Black youth and unemployment poses to them a grave threat.

— The Blacks feel that repression is becoming harsher and harsher.

Those interviewed by *Newswatch* investigators said that such repression had never been seen before. They thought that the headline adopted by Vice-President Spiro Agnew under the pretext of law enforcement, and his attacks on non-conformists encouraged local authorities to publicly persecute all those who in their views deviated from the "right track," the Black in the first place.

Racial riots this summer in the US had evident economic and political causes. Recession and inflation which generated an excessively high rate of unemployment and the soaring cost of living (these problems were already studied in *V.N. Courier* No. 275) have had disastrous consequences for the Black workers.

On the other hand, racist terror and court and police actions staged by federal and local authorities against most militant Black organizations such as the Black Panther Party has triggered a wave of indignation among thousands of Black people and political rights.

Atrocities committed by the police

and terror visited on the Blacks, profound disappointment of the Black workers at the incapacity of the White Trade-Union leadership of recognizing the legitimacy of their claims to equal rights and equal opportunities, and finally failure to realize the direct links between these claims and the action of the progressive forces in the US, all that led to the emergence of the Black Panther which is fast becoming a political force. At the outset, its leaders thought they could get the better of the police by rioting vigorously. But little by little, they have extended their program which calls for a resolute action to defend the rights of the Blacks. They have grown aware that it is a historical necessity to remove the racists from the key posts they are holding in the economic and political life of the US.

Racism and reaction are in this party a dangerous enemy, not only because of its militancy and its intransigence, but also because they estimate that this attempt to organize the forces of the liberation movement into a political party makes possible an effective leadership of the Black masses, and this, in growingly closer co-ordination with the activities of all progressive elements of the workers and students with a view to a change of the established order and the cessation of the war of aggression in Indochina. That is why the judiciary bodies and the police have made it a point of deploring the leaders of this party and destroying this party physically.

However, repression and terror can but stiffen the resistance. There are good reasons to believe that the social troubles which have embittered the internal dimensions of American society will flare up so long as the reasons which have suggested them remain unchanged.

(To be continued)

and about Operation Son Tiger during which GIs, the South Korean mercenaries of Pak Jung Hi and Saigon puppets moved down 800 persons, wounded hundreds of others and took away thousands of civilians.

Murders of prisoners are also common, not only on the "tarmac" but also in prisons and concentration camps. Women are not spared as confirmed by disclosures concerning the detainees at Thu Duc Jail, close to Saigon.

The Black Book also exposes the efforts and attempts of the Nixon administration and the US command to hush up those crimes, tries to deny them, minimize their seriousness and finally shift the blame onto scapegoats chosen among officers, or men having been more or less directly involved in the charges. Once again, the reliability of the information from Vietnamese sources has been confirmed in the case of genocide of Son My, which had been denounced by the NFL since May 1968 but remained unknown to the broad public in the West until November of the next year.

(To be continued)

## MILITARY OPERATIONS

### Northern Trung Bo

*Coc Bai (O'Reilly):* about 1,500 enemy troops wiped out, 60 aircraft downed or destroyed, 13 cannons destroyed (from Aug. 6 to Sept. 15).

### Central Trung Bo

*Huong Nhai province:* over 1,200 enemy casualties, 57 military vehicles wrecked, 7 aircraft brought down (from Aug. 24 to Sept. 10).

*Hinh Binh province:* over 1,200 enemy soldiers and 64 military vehicles put out of action, 17 planes downed or destroyed (from Aug. 27 to Sept. 6).

### Western High Plateaux

*Kontum - Gia Lai - Da Nang:* over 1,200 adverse troops knocked out, 114 military vehicles including 37 tanks and armoured cars blasted out of commission (from Aug. 29 to Sept. 29).

### Mekong Delta

A puppet company of puppet 7th Division wiped out at *Tam Binh*, Cai Lay district, My Tho province (night of Sept. 12) and a civil guard company entirely knocked out at *Huong My*, Lai Nua district, Ca Mau province (Sept. 5).

# DA BAN Victory

**L**OCATED 25 km southwest of Quang Tri town, Da Ban was turned by the enemy into a solid base forming with Coc Hai (O'Reilly), Hill 935 (Ripcord) and other positions nearby an outer belt in the enemy's defence system.

After the PLAF attack on the field CP of puppet Regiment 54 in early June last in the hilly region of Co Tien, in which the regiment commander and deputy commander were killed, the enemy sent a contingent of troops there. At the beginning of July, PLAF men broke through the enemy's defence line on Hill 935.

From August onward they continued to harass the puppet troops at Coc Bai and Da Ban, exacting a heavy toll of lives from Battalion 4, puppet Regiment 1, Battalion 1 (puppet Regiment 3) and Battalion 3 (US Brigade 1) hurriedly dispatched to Da Ban came under heavy PLAF fire. From Aug. 15 to 27, 168 GIs and over 100 puppet troops were put out of action. On Aug. 28 and 30 the battered units were relieved by Battalions 3 and 4 of puppet Regiment 3 which had its CP moved to Da Ban on Aug. 30. The following ten days Da Ban was violently attacked by

the PLAF and the Regiment CP had to evacuate on Sept. 14. After some resistance, the puppet troops defending the post fled. The pursuing PLAF inflicted 100 enemy casualties on Sept. 14. Two days later Da Ban was entirely liberated.

In 40 days (from Aug. 6 to Sept. 15) the enemy at Da Ban took over 770 casualties and had 6 guns destroyed and 30 aircraft downed.

With the fall of Da Ban, the enemy outer perimeter in the Quang Tri - Thua Thien hilly region was broken, and the "pacification" of this region thwarted.



Saigonese students v. police.

## Saigon Newsmen Protest Police Violence Against Them

The South Viet Nam Patriotic and Democratic Journalists' Association sent on September 5 the following urgent message to the Central Committee of the International Organization of Journalists:

**I**N Saigon on last August 30, 1970 American military policemen and field policemen of the Thien-

Ky - Khien puppet clique mercilessly cracked down on newsmen while they were covering the Saigon students and pupils' demonstration.

Though they had produced their credentials, Lam Tuyen, a woman journalist of the Tin Sang (Spark), and her female colleague Doan Thuy of the Dan Chu Moi (New Democracy), were bludgeoned on the face, abdomen and chest and later on (lung) in the throat than taken away. Nguyen Trong, a correspondent of the Tin Viet (Viet Nam News) agency, was hit in the knees and collapsed on the ground, Dinh Uy Quoc, another correspondent, and Nguyen Minh Hieu, a photographer reporter, and other female colleagues Doan Thuy, UPI and AP correspondents, all received blows; their cameras were confiscated and their cars damaged.

We earnestly call on the IOJ Executive Committee to strongly condemn the American and their agents' violence and denounce before worldwide public opinion these unjustifiable actions and brutalities against newsmen; to urge all its members as well as all press organizations and journalists of every country to raise their voices against the Americans and their valets' persecution of newsmen, students and pupils in South Viet Nam cities.

### In South Viet Nam

## REPRESSION OF STUDENTS, WAR INVALIDS AND EX-SERVICEMEN

**A**FTER giving orders to military sectors to help policemen crush the protest movement of townspeople (Sept. 7, 1970), the Thieu - Ky - Khien triumvirate stepped up repression of students, pupils, war invalids and ex-servicemen. The latter have reported with various actions such as teaching, statements, petitions, but in vain.

Giai Phong Press Agency reported on Sept. 13 that over 200 war invalids at Petrus Ky village (150 according to Western agencies - *E.d.*) staged a 48-hour hunger-strike in protest against house eviction, persecution and arrest by the puppet authorities. On the same day, three war invalids and ex-servicemen's leaders Nguyen Ko, Chairman of the Committee of Action for War Invalids' Right to Live, Nguyen Van Loi, Chairman of Khanh Hoa War Invalids' Association, and Nguyen Van Cat at Nha Trang were arrested on the faked charge that they had "assaulted members of the public security force on duty."

According to the Saigon press, on Sept. 8 at Chau Doc, a heavy contingent of infantrymen supported by armoured vehicles cracked down on war invalids and members of war dead's families, resulting in the injury of about one hundred of the latter, including Nguyen Van Muon, Chairman of Chau Doc War Invalids' Association. Aroused by such

brutalities a number of war invalids and members of war dead's families in Saigon had their names on the list of those who would burn themselves to death, or disembowel themselves or send letters protesting against that "lemon squashing" policy of the puppet regime.

The students' and pupils' anger also flared up. After the 24-hour hunger-strike staged by medical students on Sept. 14, a meeting was held by delegates of the Students' General Association, the University Autonomy Movement, the Women's Right to Live Movement and the medical students. Also on the same day, over 300 students of the Building College staged a teach-in and resolutely boycotted the military training imposed on them.

On Sept. 19, 15 delegates from various Saigon universities organized an indefinite hunger-strike. With the blood taken from her fingers, a girl student wrote to Thieu a letter urging the immediate release of 13 students still detained in Chi Hoa jail including Huynh Tan Man; two other students had their heads shaved in protest.

The Thieu-Ky-Khien junta's deliberate disregard for the legitimate claims of the students and other strata of the townspeople is likely to have unforeseeable consequences.